FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

8 FEBRUARY 1984

Lebanon

U.S., British Withdrawals — U.S. forces evacuated some U.S. Embassy staff from West Beirut on 7 February as one U.S. AID program official was kidnapped by Shi'ite gunmen, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. The British contingent in the Multinational Force was evacuated by helicopters to a warship off the coast on 8 February, according to a military source cited by AFP.

Military Situation — West Beirut was "calm" on the evening of 7 February following the decision by the Amal Movement and its allies to operate joint patrols with the Internal Security Forces to maintain order, Voice of the Mountain radio reported. Earlier, Radio Free Lebanon said the Lebanese Army had recaptured the hotels area in West Beirut, but the radio admitted that government forces have lost control of most of the western sector, which is in "chaos."

Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri asserted in remarks reported by the Voice of the Mountain that 14,400 Lebanese soldiers have now joined the "patriotic" forces. The commander of the 6th Brigade in West Beirut expressed support for the Amal in a statement carried by the radio, while the commander of the 1st Infantry Brigade in the Al-Biqa' valley also announced his intention of joining the "Lebanese nationalist forces movement," according to Damascus radio. The National Salvation Front (NSF) and the Amal also called for the expulsion of the Phalangists and of Army Commander Diyab Unis from the Christian town of Zahlah, the Voice of the Mountain reported.

Meanwhile, in a statement broadcast by the Voice of Lebanon, Phalangist military commander Fadi Afram said his forces will meet their enemies on the battlefield. The Christians must be prepared to defend themselves, their areas, and their freedom against "any kind of surprise," Afram warned.

Status of Beirut Radio — Beirut radio broadcast several statements by the Amal and the NSF following reports that the Amal had seized the radio building. The radio continued its normal hourly newscasts with its regular announcers, although it ceased carrying news flashes. The radio cited an Amal statement denying that "the official radio is being subjected to pressure" and stressing Amal's intention to safeguard the "objective and unbiased" character of the official information media.

Political Developments — Foreign Minister Elie Salim will fly to Riyadh on 8 February for "important" talks with Saudi leaders on Lebanon's political and security situation, Beirut radio reported. Meanwhile, President Amin al-Jumayyil again conferred with presidential envoy Donald Rumsfeld and held further contacts on the formation of a new government, the radio said. Preparations are also under way for the second round of the National Dialogue Conference in Geneva, according to the radio.

In Damascus President Hafiz al-Asad told the three former Lebanese prime ministers that Syria is ready to offer every possible assistance to "rescue" Lebanon, Damascus radio reported. One of the former prime ministers, Taqiy ad-Din as-Sulh, said in a Damascus television interview after meeting with Al-Asad that Lebanon must abrogate the agreement with Israel because it is the "major obstacle" preventing progress toward "normal life." Meanwhile, in remarks broadcast by the Voice of the Mountain, Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt reaffirmed that there will be "no dialogue, conciliation, or agreement with the Phalangists and Amin al-Jumayyil."

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Summit Postponed — Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, in a 7 February statement broadcast by Riyadh Radio, announced the postponement of the 13th Arab summit conference originally scheduled for 1 April. According to Klibi, the summit was postponed to allow time for "intense efforts" to be made by Arab League member states to set up specialized ministerial committees which will study topics on the draft agenda, including the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Iran-Iraq war, and joint Arab action, with the aim of making it "easier" for the summit to achieve agreement on them.

Mubarak in Morocco — Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and his delegation arrived in Rabat on 7 February, Rabat radio reported. In preliminary talks with King Hassan II, Mubarak expressed his appreciation for Morocco's stand during the recent ICO summit in Casablanca, presidential adviser Dr Usumah al-Baz told Cairo radio.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

The Central Jerusalem Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in Iran, in a communique broadcast by Tehran radio, put its forces on alert and informed personnel involved in the Jerusalem Liberation Maneuvers to report to predetermined centers on 9 February. Armed and ready, these forces will then be dispatched to maneuver sites in over 60 areas of the country, the communique added.

In another development, two military commanders warned that Iraq will deal a "mortal" and "final" blow to Iranian forces inside their own territory if they launch a new attack on Iraq, INA reported.

Meanwhile, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said in remarks cited by Tehran radio that the Iranian president's warning of retaliation for Iraqi attacks was only "the beginning" and would not end with the three specified Iraqi towns. If the Iraqis "engage in adventurism," the Majlis speaker warned, there will be "no secure town anywhere in Iraq" except Karbala', Najaf, Kazimayn, and Samarra, which "enjoy special sanctity."

Iran

General Gholam 'Ali Oveysi, former military governor of Tehran, and his brother were assassinated in Paris on 7 February, IRNA reported. Responsibility for the attack has been claimed by the Islamic Jihad and by a previously unknown movement, the "Iranian Revolutionary Organization for Liberation and Reform," Paris radio stated.

UAE

The UAE ambassador to France was shot in the head by a gunman outside his home in Paris, AFP reported. Paris radio reported the ambassador's subsequent death. No group has as yet claimed responsibility for the attack.

PLO Affairs

The Fatah Central Committee will hold a meeting in Tunis on 10 February under the chairmanship of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, Algiers Voice of Palestine Radio reported citing "Palestinian sources" in Amman.

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AFP: Hundreds of Civilians Reportedly Massacred

BK071642 Hong Kong AFP in English 1632 GMT 7 Feb 84

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 7 (AFP) — Hundreds of civilians, many women and children, have reportedly been massacred in a Soviet offensive on a small town north of Kabul, witnesses have told Western diplomats in Kabul.

A Western diplomatic source here today quoted refugees who fled the town of Istalef for Kabul as bombs and artillery fire began last Thursday. Istalef had already been half destroyed in a major Soviet attack last November.

Western diplomats in Kabul said the refugees' reports were reliable. They described massacres of Afghan rebels and their families whose throats were slit and their bodies then thrown down wells.

Afghan resistance spokesmen in Peshawar could neither deny nor confirm the reports.

Soviet infantry were said to have invaded Istalef, about 50 kms (30 miles) north of the Afghan capital, before dawn, setting homes on fire. After the massacres they withdrew and artillery fire was launched against the town. Helicopters from Kabul joined the attack.

Rebels in the Hezb-e-Islami and Jamiat-i-Islami Parties put up fierce resistance reportedly killing 50 Soviet soldiers. After 36 hours of fighting three helicopters and several lorries took the Soviet dead and wounded to Kabul.

The attack on Istalef coincided with a wave of bombings against several towns and villages in the Shomali Plain, north of Kabul, where the Soviets suspect numerous rebel groups to be wintering. Bombings have been reported at Guldara, Qarabagh, Chakardara and Charikar, near the entrance to the Panshir Valley.

At Chakardara, according to diplomats, Soviet planes mistakenly bombed a large column of soldiers from the Eighth Afghan Division on January 27. Heavy casualties were reported, including the deaths of a general and two colonels.

Diplomats said 193 civilians had been killed in reprisal bombings on New Year's Eve of Rauza village, near the provincial capital Ghazni, south of Kabul.

The shelling immediately followed the withdrawal from Rauza of Afghan soldiers who had been attacked by rebels as they searched the village for men trying to avoid conscription.

Observers said although diplomats usually quoted sources which could not be checked, it seemed clear Soviet troops, for the first time in four years of occupation, had been ordered to keep up pressure on rebel forces this winter to try to prevent preparations for the rebels' traditional spring offensives.

Karmal Chairs Commission on Land, Water Reforms

LD072109 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 7 Feb 84

[Text] A joint session of the PDPA Central Committee and the DRA Council of Ministers Commission on Land and Water Reforms was held today. The session was chaired by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council.

The commission discussed in detail various stages of land and water reforms. It heard reports from Agriculture and Land Reform Minister Abdol Ghafar Lakanwal on the present stage of land reform and from Irrigation Minister Ahmad Shah Sorkhabi on restoration and construction of irrigation networks.

The commission approved the guidance presented by the Ministries of Agriculture and Land Reform and Irrigation on the implementation of land and water reforms in the DRA. This guidance specifies the duties of party and government organs, agricultural and irrigation organs of village peasant councils and peasant committees on the use of water in agriculture, and the tasks of operational groups in implementing land reform. The guidance is regarded as standard instructions for the implementation of land and water reforms and will assist in the solution of all issues in this regard.

The commission endorsed the proposal of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform on canceling the remaining installments for the repayment of surplus jerib land. After approval of this provision by the Revolutionary Council Presidium, another major assistance will be made to those peasants who have received surplus jerib land and so far have not paid the price in installments.

The commission also endorsed the regional surplus allowance for operational groups. The Council of Ministers will decide on the matter.

The commission approved the composition of a nationwide conference to be held in the near future, comprising heads of zones, governors, secretaries of the provincial party committees, officials of agriculture and irrigation departments, and other representatives of party and government organs. The conference will assess land and water reforms in the country, particularly regarding the recent decision on providing more facilities for the implementation of land reform and giving all-round assistance to the toiling peasants of the country in view of decree No 8 on land reform and the law regulating land ownership. Moreover, a seminar will be convened for the participants of this session.

Babrak Karmal made an all-round and profound assessment of the commission's work and emphasized that one of the major and fundamental duties of the national and democratic April Revolution is the full and just implementation of land reform in the interest of the toiling peasants and with their participation.

Babrak Karmal said the remnants of the feudals and semifeudals will be completely eliminated in our country by implementation of the democratic land reform, and by its continuation and evolution the path will be cleared for fundamental solution of land and peasantry issues, raising the living standard of the country's peasants, rapid progress of productive forces in agriculture and industry, and realization of profound transformations in production methods and tackling the modern and advanced agricultural production system.

Babrak Karmal regarded the work of the commission for solving major problems of land and water reforms as important.He instructed the Ministries of Agriculture and Land Reform and Irrigation to organize prompt, serious, and practical measures to speed up this vital work, to raise the level of responsibility and activity of the respective personnel, and to assist the country's toiling peasants in providing them with land, water, material, and technical assistance.

At this session of the commission, several decisions were also made on resolving other issues concerning the completion of land and water reforms in the country.

Karmal Meets With Paktia Tribal Leaders

LD080700 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0443 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] Kabul, February 7, BAKHTAR — Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, received the elders and representatives of various tribes of Khost division of Paktia Province here today.

In the meeting President Babrak Karmal assured them that the party and the revolutionary are trying hard for the welfare of the people and meeting the demands of the April revolution concerning the undeclared war which has been waged by the world imperialism headed by the U.S. imperialism. Babrak Karmal assured that our people likewise their forefathers have crushed and will crush the aggressive forces which have been threatening our independence.

Babrak Karmal also dwelt on the significant part that the people of Paktia had taken in the war of independence against the enemies of our beloved nation.

The BIA reporter adds that at the end the representatives of these tribes promised their full loyalty and participation in defending the gains of the April revolution.

Successful Security Forces Operations Cited

LD051904 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Feb 84

[Text] The brave and heroic security forces continue to crush rebels with the direct cooperation of the country's toiling people.

Recently a number of plunderers of the criminal Jamiat-e Eslami band were killed in Arghandeh village, Badakhshan Province, during successful operations by the security forces.

According to another report, in operations carried out yesterday in the (Baghcha-e Koti), (?Parwaz Sangi), and (Kuh-e Marmol) regions of Balkh Province, a number of rebels were killed and a quantity of weapons were seized. A number of heavy weapons such as DShK's and rocket launchers have been destroyed.

Also, during operations carried out in the (Takhta-e Kupar) and (Koland) areas of Takhar Province, a number of assorted weapons were seized.

During recent operations carried out by the security forces of Nangarhar Province in the vicinity of Towr Kham, more than 11 criminal rebels were killed and 1 armed criminal was captured. Various weapons, ammunition, and hand grenades were seized; one mortar and one DShK were destroyed.

As a result of operations carried out in Qarah Bagh and Chahar Bagh villages, Bagrami District [Kabul Province], with the cooperation of the people of that district, a number of these murderers were arrested and a number were killed. Six Chinese and Egyptian Kalashnikovs with ammunition and propaganda leaflets proving their links with foreign countries were seized.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reporting from Jowzjan Province says that recently a 28-man group belonging to the so-called Harakat-e Islami band, including their leader Sherdel, surrendered to the Sar-e Pol security forces, taking advantage of the DRA Revolutionary Council amnesty decree. They also surrendered 14 American, Egyptian, Chinese, and Pakistani weapons and pledged to defend the April Revolution, the people, and the homeland and to fight to crush and eliminate rebels in order to make up for their past actions.

Also a number of counterrevolutionary elements belonging to the so-called Jami'at-e Eslami band were crushed by the security forces with the cooperation of the local people in (?Talat) village, Khas Konar District, Konar Province, and Kuz Nur Gol village of Nur Gol Subdistrict. A quantity of weapons and ammunition has been seized from these criminals.

Additional Report

LD061913 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 6 Feb 84

[Text] Every day the toiling masses of the country are being freed from the crimes of the rebels and are restarting their peaceful and prosperous lives as a result of crushing blows inflicted on the rebels by the heroic Armed Forces.

A BAKHTAR correspondent, quoting a source from Qandahar Province's security force, reports that recently as a result of successful operations carried out by the Armed Forces of that province, with the all-round assistance of the people of Qandahar, a group of rebels was crushed there. Some 45 American, Egyptian, Chinese, and British weapons; 15 hand grenades; and more than 2,500 rounds of ammunition were seized from these professional murderers, killers of hundreds of our innocent compatriots. One mortar, 1 DShK, 18 weapons, and a quantity of ammunition have been destroyed.

According to another report, in the course of operations carried out by the militant security forces of Balkh Province in Marmol Heights, (?Ashura) valley, (Molah Baba) village, Marmol Valley, and Kariz village of that province, a number of these criminals were killed and three of them were captured together with weapons and ammunition.

Another report from the Nangarhar security force says that recently a number of rebels were killed and 16 were wounded during operations carried out in that province. A quantity of various weapons, proving their links with Western countries, were captured.

Also during recent operations by the security forces in the suburbs of Qarabagh District [Kabul Province], a number of rebels were killed and 23 assorted weapons, 5 rocket launchers, 1 DShK, 1 heavy machine gun, 170 antipersonnel mines, 131 antitank mines, 137 hand grenades, 1,620 rounds of DShK ammunition, and 1 radio set were seized from the criminals.

Voice of Islamic Revolution on Fighting

GF061818 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari 1718 GMT 6 Feb 84

[Text] Herat: Our revolutionary Muslim brothers, in a series of operations carried out in Herat Province, attacked a position of the Soviet occupying forces and the Karmal puppet regime. The operations succeeded in destroying the position and its occupants.

Paktia: In a series of operations carried out in Paktia Province, a (?patrol) unit of the Soviet occupying forces and the Karmal regime was the target of the attack of our Muslim revolutionaries. As a result, all the members of the unit were either killed or wounded. Two members of the (?patrol) unit who had been wounded were taken prisoner by our Muslim revolutionary brothers. In the course of the operations, our Muslim revolutionary brothers captured seven (?light machine guns) and a quantity of ammunition.

The publication of the Soviet Armed Forces, *RED STAR*, in its recent issue has confessed to the losses sustained by the Soviet occupying forces in the Islamic country of Afghanistan. *RED STAR*, without citing the number of casualties suffered by the occupying forces since their occupation of our Islamic country, wrote that two officers [words indistinct] were killed during the past week in Afghanistan.

Voice of Islamic Revolution on Iranian Expulsion

GF041706 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari 1700 GMT 3 Feb 84

[Text] From among the leaders of our Islamic mujahidin brothers, one leader in an interview with the Voice of the Islamic Revolution correspondent in Farah condemned and warned world imperialist propaganda. He also said that in Iran the success of the Islamic Revolution today is considered a big danger to the communists and the communist countries and said that all kinds of propaganda and action taken to harm the current Iranian regime will be considered a blow to the Islamic Revolution.

In his statement about the expulsion of a few of Babrak Karmal's agents from Iran, a step which is greatly in the interest of the Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan, he said that it would be better if more attention is paid to this matter, but the Muslim people and the revolutionary Muslims of our country consider the expulsion of those who in the name of being Afghans indulge in smuggling and robberies and other counter-Islamic acts not only necessary but they in no way oppose this step.

The puppet regime of the occupying Soviet forces in Afghanistan, in order to besmirch the Islamic and revolutionary face of the people of Afghanistan, have dispatched a handful of communist mercenaries to Iran to undertake sabotage activities in Pakistan and Iran. Today the (?true) Afghan Muslim revolutionaries are busy trying to identify these mercenaries.

The leader asked the Governments of Pakistan and Iran to pay more attention to their activities with the Afghan refugees.

PDPA Congratulates Vietnamese Party

LD050800 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0435 GMT 5 Feb 84

[Text] Kabul, Febuary 4, BAKHTAR — A congratulatory telegram was sent today by the PDPA CC addressed to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the heroic people of that country on the occasion of the 54th foundation anniversary of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

The telegram says the PDPA highly evaluates the great achievements gained by the people of Vietnam under the leadership of Communist Party and the implementation of the decision of the fifth congress of the party.

The telegram adds that the friendly relations between the DRA and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam which are in the interest of the people of two countries and security and [word indistinct] all over the world will ever further develop.

BAKHTAR Views U.S.-Chinese Coordination

LD060630 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 6 Feb 84

[Unattributed commentary: "Dangerous Partnership"]

[Text] Kabul, February 5, BAKHTAR — The American administration wants to draw China into a "strategic partnership," which is aimed also against the Asians — this conclusion can well be drawn from the US-China talks held in the course of Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang's visit to Washington. Receiving him, US Secretary of State George Shultz said "We have resumed and continued our strategic dialogue".

In the course of this dialogue the situation around Afghanistan was also discussed. Appearing before the foreign policy association in New york on January 17, the Chinese Premier said that in this question China and the USA held identical positions.

This coincidence of views has a history of its own. As the American leadership, Beijing has from the very beginning been hostile towards the April revolution, which had wrecked its sinister imperialist plans regarding Afghanistan and blocked the road to the Chinese leadership's expansionist scheming. It was [word indistinct] that China joined in the subversive activities against the DRA. Chinese military instructors [word indistinct] train bandits preparing them for acts of subversion against Afghanistan. Counter-revolutionary bands that have entrenched themselves in Pakistan are supplied with Chinese arms and other combat equipment. Beijing and Washington have actually from the very beginning been coordinating their efforts in one direction: They have been waging an undeclared war with a view to destabilising revolutionary power in Afghanistan.

Small wonder that at the talks in Washington both the USA and China demonstrated that they have as before been following similar policies with regard to the developments in Afghanistan and around it. In New York Zhao Ziyang even expressed the hope that the two sides would be able to coordinate their efforts in this matter.

Such a "coordination of efforts" between China and an imperialist power means only one thing: continued expansion of the undeclared war against the people of Afghanistan. The Chinese leadership has thus demonstrated once again its animosity towards progressive revolutionary changes in Afghanistan and show it readiness to sacrifice the peace, freedom and independence of the Afghan people to its expansionist designs.

OBSERVER on Possibility of 'Political Cabinet'

BK071429 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 2 Feb 84 pp 1, 12

[Text] There is strong possibility of a "political cabinet" being formed by the end of this month in the wake of President and Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad's dialogue with political leaders.

The "political cabinet" will be composed of like-minded patriotic and nationalist political figures. New induction is likely to be made by February end. The probable candidates are Mr. Ataur Rahman Khan, Mr. Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, Major (Rtd) M. A. Jalil, Dr. M. A. Matin, Mr. Shamsul Huda Chowdhury, Mr. Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, Mr. A. S. M. Solaiman and representatives from Jatiyo Jote [National Alliance] and Oikya [United] Front. This adds strength to the speculation that a National Front headed by the President will soon be formed.

The move is being made to give a political character to the Cabinet with a view to avoiding fresh spasm of violence following the call for movement by 22-party alliance.

The political dialogue is likely to continue till Sunday or Monday and the Oikya Front leader, former President Khondokar Mushtaque Ahmed, is expected to join the dialogue today (Thursday) or on Friday.

Though the Government has so far failed to dilute the avowed stand of BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] led by Begum Khaleda Zia on announcement of date for open politics and shifting of upazila [subdistrict] elections after Sangshad [Parliament] polls, a highly placed Government official is hopeful of making a rapport with BNP. Talks with BNP were held even on Tuesday.

After the completion of the political dialogue that started on January 6, the Government will make a thorough stock-taking of the dialogue. Following this President Ershad is likely to address the Nation detailing the political issues.

To outbid the fresh political moves by the 15-party and seven-party alliances, the Government is thinking of revising the schedule of upazila elections. The schedule for filing nomination papers will be shifted to a date after February 20 from the present date on February 7.

King of Bhutan Makes 3-Day State Visit

BK040929 Dhaka BSS in English 0610 GMT 4 Feb 84

[Text] Dhaka Feb 4 (BSS) — King Jigme Singye Wangchuk of Bhutan arrived here today for a 3-day state visit, his second to Bangladesh.

President Hussain Mohammad Ershad and ministers were among other to welcome the monarch of the landlocked Himalayan kingdom.

The two countries are expected to explore expansion of bilateral trade.

Banquet Speeches Reported

BK051505 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] President Ershad has expressed his firm belief that the South Asian Regional Cooperation [SARC] will significantly contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of 1 billion people of the region. Speaking at a banquet given by him in honor of the visiting Bhutanese King Jigme Singye Wangchuk at Banga Bhavan in Dhaka last night, the president said that [words indistinct] no durable peace can be achieved as long as economic disparity between nations continue to widen. He said Bangladesh believes that [words indistinct] of the world economy is the establishment of a new international economic order, is an imperative need of the time.

The president emphasized the need (?for trying to) establish mutually beneficial cooperation among the nations of the region for attaining collective self-reliance.

President Ershad appreciated the forceful support given by King Wangchuk for the formation of the SARC and said joint efforts by the nations of the region have produced most (?effective) results to the [word indistinct] integrated program of action by the SARC. He said Bangladesh has been making persistent efforts to create an atmosphere of good will, trust, and mutual understanding [words indistinct].

The president reiterated Bangladesh's support to declare the Indian Ocean a zone of peace and (?holding of) the proposed international conference on the Indian Ocean in the near future. He expressed his concern at the situation in Kampuchea and Afghanistan. Once again he called for a political solution to (?this) problem based on the immediate and uncondtional withdrawal of foreign troops.

The president described the situation in West Asia as alarming in the face of continued Israeli aggression against Lebanon and said just and durable peace in the region can be achieved only through the process of total and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from all Arab occupied territories and rehabilitation of the legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinians.

The president reaffirmed Bangladesh's (?role) in continuing its all possible endeavors to end the fratricidal war between Iran and Iraq.

Referring to the friendly relations between Bangladesh and Bhutan, the president said these are based on the common links of geography, history, culture, and tradition.

In reply, the Bhutanese King expressed his country's determination to work resolutely for the success of (SARC). He said (?purpose) of the Bangladesh initiative is to create a climate of trust and cooperation in the region.

King Wangchuk pointed out that Bhutan will support the leading international role Bangladesh has been playing in promoting the cause of the least developed countries. He mentioned Bangladesh's outstanding contribution last year as the chairman of the Group of 77.

The king said his country has watched with great admiration the vast changes which have been brought about in Bangladesh under the dynamic and dedicated leadership of President Ershad. He observed that the decentralization policy of General Ershad's government was similar in many respects to the administrative decentralization launched in Bhutan.

The king said there is a keen desire on the part of both the governments to develop trade and economic cooperation. [Word indistinct] agreement on trade relations will be mutually beneficial and go a long way in fostering closer cooperation and understanding between the two countries.

Meanwhile, formal talks between the two countries is being held today. Bilateral matters, regional, as well as global issues of common concern are likely to figure prominently at the talks.

King Wangchuk called on President Ershad at Banga Bhavan yesterday evening. They discussed matters of mutual interest.

Trade Protocol Signed

BK070039 Dhaka BSS in English 0655 GMT 6 Feb 84

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 6 (BSS) — Bangladesh and Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan Sunday signed a trade protocol stipulating bilateral commercial transactions between the two countries. The protocol activates a trade agreement signed between the two countries in 1980 which could not be operative for lack of transit facilities through India. The new protocol follows an agreement on January 31 under which India agreed to give landlocked Bhutan transit facilities through her territories to Bangladesh.

The protocol was signed in presence of King Jigme Singye Wangchuk of Bhutan who arrived here on a three day state visit to Dhaka, his second to Bangladesh. The visit ends today.

Both Bangladesh and Bhutan are the two doughtiest champions of the concept of South Asian Regional Cooperation (SARC) and at formal talks King Wangchuk and President Ershad of Bangladesh expressed their resolute determination to work for the success of the forum.

Briefs

Islamic Bank Loan — Dhaka Feb 2 BSS — Bangladesh will receive a loan of 20 million dollars from the Islamic Development Bank [IDB] for buying crude oil under a foreign trade financing agreement. The loan agreement was signed in Jidda yesterday. The total IDB financing to Bangladesh since the beginning of the current year rose to 35 million dollars. [Text] [Dhaka BSS in English 0618 GMT 2 Feb 84 BK]

IDA Credit — Bangladesh is to receive $20 million from the International Development Association as credit. It will be utilized by the government to improve its capacity to prepare and implement development projects. [Excerpt] [Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 6 Feb 84 BK]

Romanian Trade Delegation — Dhaka Feb 1 BSS — A Romanian trade delegation headed by its deputy foreign trade minister, Paul Prioteasa, has come here for exploring possibilities of the expansion of trade between the two countries. The delegation will be here for four days when its members would meet officials of the Trade Ministry and private traders at a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. [Text] [Dhaka BSS in English 0610 GMT 1 Feb 84 BK]

AFP: Two Pakistani Airlines Employees Expelled

BK081108 Hong Kong AFP in English 1055 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 8 (AFP) — The Indian Government today announced the expulsion of two employees of the Pakistani International Airlines (PIA) office here. The two were asked to leave the country by Saturday.

The announcement came after the Pakistan Government's recent move to expel two Indian airlines officials on charges of helping to smuggle out two domestic servants to India. The two Indian airlines officials, whose visas were terminated by Islamabad, arrived in New Delhi Monday and said that the charges against them had been "trumped up."

Union Council of Ministers Reshuffle Reported

BK071733 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Feb 84

[Text] Portfolios of five ministers of state and three deputy ministers in the Union Council of Ministers have been changed.

Mrs Ram Dulari Sinha has been shifted from the Ministry of Commerce to Home Affairs. Mr Nihar Ranjan Laskar will take over as the minister of state for commerce and supply. Mr S. Pattabhi Rama Rao becomes the minister of state for industry in place of Mr S.M. Krishna, who now will be the minister of state for finance. Mr Arif Mohammad Khan, now the minister of state for agriculture, joins the Energy Ministry.

Among the deputy ministers, Mr Mallikarjun, who is now the deputy minister for parliamentary affairs and information and broadcasting, will be the deputy minister for sports, works, and housing. He will continue to hold the portfolio of parliamentary affairs.

The deputy minister for law, Mr Ghulam Nabi Azad, has been shifted to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Mr. Ashok Gehlot, now the deputy minister for tourism and civil aviation, goes to the Department of Sports [as heard].

Accordng to a Rashtrapati Bhawan [president's house] communique, the president has ordered the reallocation of portfolios on the advice of the prime minister.

Gandhi Warns of 'Continuing Threats' to Country

BK080322 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] The prime minister has cautioned the people against continuing threats and pressures against the freedom and integrity of the country. We can meet them only by keeping up our principles and standing on our feet. Mrs Gandhi said this while inaugurating the computerized photo composing and offset printing of the English daily the *PATRIOT* in New Delhi yesterday.

Mrs Gandhi said today's problem is how to stand up to the various pressures from outside. If we succumb to the diktats of others, it would be at the cost of our freedom, dignity, and progress. About the role of newspapers, the prime minister said they are not expected to be noncritical, but they must put out the news as it is. It should be a balanced coverage of achievements and failures.

Addressing a group of participants in the ninth advanced professional program in public administration, Mrs Gandhi said for a big country like India self-reliance is not just a policy but a matter of survival. Calling upon the administrators to have a feel of the people's need, the prime minister said the government cannot rule in isolation. People's participation and sense of responsibility are a must for the country's development.

Congress-I Leader Comments on Death of Diplomat

BK071654 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Feb 84

[Text] The Congress-I general secretary, Mr G.K. Moopanar, has expressed shock at the murder of Mr R.H. Mhatre, India's assistant commissioner at Birmingham in Britain. He said in a statement that the lesson to be learned from Mr Mhatre's killing is clear. All possible steps have to be taken to firmly deal with the antinational elements in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, has said that any attack on India will be disasterous for Pakistan. Condemning the assasination of Mr Mhatre, he said a handful of misguided persons in Britain must know that we are already liberated. Addressing a public meeting at the border town of Ranbirsinghpura today, he said it is the Pak-occupied Kashmir suffering under the ruthless army rule which requires to be liberated.

At the meeting convened by the prime minister to discuss the Punjab situation, both the government and the opposition leaders expressed their distress at the brutal killing of Mr Mhatre.

Reportage on Punjab Strike Called by Akali Dal

Train Service Affected

BK071710 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Feb 84

[Text] In Punjab, schools and colleges will remain closed tomorrow. State Roadway buses will not ply. Trains also will not run from 0600 to 1800. The railways will regulate running of certain trains scheduled to arrive at or pass through Punjab tomorrow. Necessary arrangements have been made for the passengers at the stations. Fares will be refunded if asked for. These steps have been taken as a precautionary measure in view of the bundh [strike] call given by the Akali Dal.

Gandhi Meets With Opposition

BK071706 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Feb 84

[Text] At a meeting with the opposition, the prime minister today made it clear that the government does not want confrontation

with any party, including the Akali Dal. We can always sit together and sort out matters, she said.

Mrs Gandhi had invited the opposition leaders to discuss the Punjab situation. In her opening remarks, she said the government is for a solution, but a solution must not raise new problems. Agitation can only lead to misery and suffering for thousands and also to antinational elements getting hold of the situation.

A statement issued at the end of a 100-minute meeting said the government and the opposition agreed that the tripartite talks should be resumed to solve the Punjab problem. Akali leaders should be invited to take part in the talks.

The meeting condemned violence and any form of disrespect to the Constitution. It was strongly of the view that no religious place should be used for storage of arms or harboring of persons wanted by the law and order authority.

The meeting appealed to all sections of the people in Punjab to help in preventing violence and in restoring normalcy and communal harmony, the statement added.

The meeting expressed the hope that tomorrow's proposed bundh [strike] will not lead to violence and every effort will be made to maintain communal harmony.

Mrs Gandhi said no purpose is served by bundhs and morchas [agitation]. The prime minister reaffirmed that the government has always tried to solve problems through negotiation, but it cannot impose a decision. We have to take into account all points of view and cannot go only by the demands which are backed by the agitationists. She also pointed out that new demands are coming up. As for instance, the question of personal law, which will have many legal, social, and all kinds of other implications. This is also no guarantee that the decisions reached now will not be reopened.

About the Akali Dal's territorial demand, Mrs Gandhi said there are several options. There is the 1971 award under which Chandigarh goes to Punjab, Abohar and Fazilka to Haryana and all other claims and counterclaims are referred to a commission.

The second option is that the government will refer all disputes, including Chandigarh, Abohar, and Fazilka, to a commission.

Another alternative is that the government will accept any settlement reached bilaterally by Punjab and Haryana through discussions.

One of the ideas mentioned in this connection is the division of Chandigarh between Punjab and Haryana in the ratio of 60 to 40. However, the government cannot accept the demand of the agitationists to hand over Chandigarh to Punjab immediately, while Abuhar and Fazilka would not simultaneously be given to Haryana as this will not solve the problem.

As regard to the water dispute, the prime minister said the government has always been ready to refer the matter to a tribunal presided over by a judge of the Supreme Court. Pending its final decision, the tribunal itself can decide the interim allocation of water between the states.

About the fourth set of demands, which related to religious issues, the prime minister said that practically all of them have already been accepted. Only in the case of a proposed legislation to cover historical gurdwaras [Sikh religious places] there has been no agreement. Even for this a satisfactory solution can be found if there is good will.

Regarding the demand to refer the Anandpur Sahib resolution to the Sarkaria Commission [dealing with center-state relations], the prime minister said that the Akali Dal can raise the matter with the commission if it wishes to. The government, however, cannot do so.

The prime minister also referred to the demand now being raised to amend Article 25 of the Constitution and the threat to burn the Constitution. The government, she said, would make only two demands — let there be no violence and that religious places not be used to harbor criminals and antisocial elements. She also said that the government has taken note of the Akali Dal's statement that they are committed to the country's integrity and unity.

The prime minister has expressed her deep distress at the allegations of discrimination against the Sikh community. She described them as untrue, unfair, and absolutely unfounded. Nothing can be further from the truth.

Mrs Gandhi said Sikhs have always enjoyed a highly respected place in the country's political and social life. In the civil service, military service, and business they had always had an honored share.

From the government side, those present besides Mrs Gandhi were Mr P.C. Sethi, Mr Pronab Mukherjee, Mr Venkataraman, Mr Buta Singh, and Mr Shivsankar. The 14 opposition leaders included Mr Charan Singh, Mr L.K. Advani, Mr Madhu Dandavate, Mr Jagjivan Ram, Mr Ebrahim Sulaiman Sait, Mr Dharamvir Singh, Mr Indrajit Gupta, Mr Samar Mukherjee, Mr Chandrashekar, Mr Chandrajit Yadav, and Mrs Sathiavani Muthu.

Precautionary Measures Taken

BK080311 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] In Punjab all necessary precautionary measures have been taken in view of the bundh [strike] called by the Akali Dal today. Police pickets have been posted at all strategic points and police patrolling intensified to avert any untoward incident. Leaders of almost all political parties including the Akali Dal have appealed to the people to maintain peace and communal harmony. Similar appeals have also been made by peace committees which met at several places in the state yesterday. The state government has closed all the educational institutions for the day. State buses will not ply during the bundh period. Trains will also not run till 1800 this evening. The railways have made arrangements to regulate the running of certain trains scheduled to arrive at or pass

through Punjab today. According to an Akali Dal spokesman, the bundh will not affect the working of radio, television, the press information bureau and the press.

As already reported, the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, had a meeting yesterday with the opposition leaders and made it clear that the center does not want any confrontation with any party, including the Akali Dal. The meeting was convened to discuss the Punjab situation in the wake of the bundh. The meeting condemned violence and any form of disrespect to the constitution. Mrs Gandhi reaffirmed the center's desire to solve the problem through negotiations.

Our correspondent in Amritsar reports that though the signs of the bundh had appeared at the bus stands from yesterday evening, the people were heard talking about the inconvenience being caused by it. The Akali Dal claims complete bundh in the city this morning, but our correspondent says vehicles like scooters, rickshaws, cars and [word indistinct] are plying on the road. The people are going for their jobs on foot.

Strike Effect Reported

BK080904 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] The Punjab bundh [strike] called by the Akali Dal has been by and large peaceful. As already reported, train and bus services have been suspended, and all educational institutions closed for the day. Attendance in central and state government offices all over the state was normal this morning.

In Patiala, 30 people were rounded up by the police for trying to forcibly close offices and shops. In Amritsar, some central government offices were stoned by Akali workers. Reports of forcible closure of some shops in Ropar have also come in. Akali workers have been gheraoing [blockading] courts at almost all district headquarters. At many places, people had to go without their daily supply of milk and other essential articles. There are also reports of tampering with railway and telephone equipment at some places last night and early this morning.

In Ludhiana, some newsmen moving on scooters were forcibly stopped by the agitators. A report from Jullundur says all shops in the city are closed. Police all over the state is keeping a close vigil over the situation. Pickets have been posted at strategic points and patroling intensified. At many places, people could not get newspapers published from outside the state because of the cancellation of trains.

West Bengal Minister Comments on Visa Denials

BK051700 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 25 Jan 84 p 1

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Jan 24 — The West Bengal Chief Minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, on Tuesday expressed surprise at the denial of visas by the central government to Chinese and Soviet delegates to the all-India conference of the Students Federation of India, which is in session in Calcutta.

Addressing a press conference, Mr Basu took exception ot the refusal of visas and said he viewed this matter "very seriously." Recalling that only last month the government had granted visas to delegates from the Soviet Union to attend the plenary session of the AICC-I [All India Congress Committee-I] in Calcutta, Mr Basu said he made an effort to ascertain the reasons for the centre's decision during his current visit to the Capital.

The chief minister said he met the external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, in this connection and was told that Mr Rao had not objected to the granting of visas to the foreign delegates.

Mr Rao reportedly told him that the matter was handled by the Home Ministry. Mr Basu then tried to meet the home minister, Mr P.C. Sethi, but could not do so. Mr Basu said he would write to the home minister on his return to Calcutta.

The chief minister is in the capital along with the West Bengal finance minister, Mr Asoke Mitra for discussions with the Planning Commission on the state's annual plan for 1984-85.

SRI LANKA

TULF Leader Says Meeting With SLFP Possible

BK080940 Hong Kong AFP in English 0824 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] Colombo, Feb 8 (AFP) — The main Tamil group here may seek a meeting with the second largest Sinhala party in a bid to smooth over a dispute that has further bogged down talks on Sri Lanka's ethnic tensions, a Tamil leader said today.

Appapillai Amirthalingam, general secretary of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), said the move by the Sinhala-dominated Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) to pull out of roundtable talks on the ethnic issue was unfortunate.

"If the second major Sinhala party does not participate then it is not possible to work out a national consensus to the racial problems," Mr. Amirthalingam told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE. He said the TULF might meet SLFP leaders to clear up any misunderstandings hindering the talks, which began January 10 in a bid to resolve tensions which exploded into anti-Tamil violence that left nearly 400 people dead in July.

"We have not decided this matter yet. I have to consult my colleagues and make a decision whether we should meet the SLFP," he said.

The SLFP pulled out of the discussions, which had resumed Monday, after accusing the TULF of seeking South Indian intervention in Sri Lanka's internal affairs and criticizing the country's Buddhist clergy. The SLFP, led by former Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike, also charged that the government of President Junius Jayewardene was trying to impose preconceived solutions on the conference.

Mr. Amirthalingam denied in a statement that his party sought intervention by South Indians during a recent trip to the area by TULF leaders. He said he and another colleague went to visit their relatives in Madras and "did not go to India for consultations with anybody."

An Indian news agency report from Madras on January 29 had quoted Mr. Amirthalingam as saying that the "stiff attitude" adopted by the Buddhist clergy had prevented progress at the conference. But the TULF chief insisted that he never cast aspersions on the Buddhists.

"In answer to a question whether the Buddhist clergy were hostile I said they were more sympathetic now," he said.

He said that he could not refuse to answer questions by the Indian press which had "highlighted our trauma."

He added, "I was careful not to divulge any confidential matters and not to say anything prejudicial to the work of the APC (All Party conference)," which brings together several political, religious and ethnic groups.

Informed sources said that conference secretary Felix Dias Abeysinghe, who was asked to contact the SLFP to invite it to rejoin the talks, had not been able to do so. The conference was to resume on February 21.

Velayati Cables World Bodies on Iraqi Threats

LD080510 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] In the wake of numerous threats by the Iraqi Zionist regime to bomb and launch missile attacks on our Islamic homeland, Foreign Minister Velayati sent cables to the chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, the secretary general of the United Nations, and the president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, as follows.

Mrs Indira Gandhi, chairman of the Nonaligned Movement; Mr Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization; Mr Perez de Cuellar, secretary general of the United Nations; Mr Alexandre Hay, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross:

For over 40 months, since Iraq's military aggression against Iran, the towns and civilian centers of the Islamic Republic of Iran have been dastardly attacked and smashed by the Iraqi agents through missiles, air raids, and chemical weapons. So far, however, because of our adherence to Islamic precepts, humanitarian commitment, and respect for the principles of international conventions, we have refrained from retaliation, confining ourselves to our response on the battlefronts to these dastardly attacks.

Through its missiles attacks and contrary to humanitarian standards and international conventions, the aggressive Iraqi regime has so far martyred nearly 4,600 innocent Iranian civilians and injured over 22,000 men, women, and children of the towns situated hundreds of kilometers from the front lines.

Recently, the Iraqi regime officially threatened to launch air and missile attacks on 11 Iranian towns: Abadan, Shush, Bakhtaran, Behbehan, Ahvaz, Ilam, Dezful, Andimeshk, Masjed Soleyman, Bandar-e Imam Khomeyni, and Ramhormoz. Past experience has shown that the Saddam regime has on certain instances carried out such threats. The Islamic Republic of Iran's Government has on many occasions in the past notified and warned international bodies and assemblies in order to prevent such criminal acts by means of channels available to them and also to condemn them. However, in practice, nothing conclusive has been done. Such silence has led to further boldness by the Iraqi regime.

Now, once again, while drawing the attention of that organization to such a threat, we have to declare that the Iranian people can no longer endure these dastardly killings that are imposed on them. As a result, the Islamic Republic of Iran Government can no longer sit idly by vis-a-vis the wishes and appeals of the innocent and defenseless people of its towns. The Islamic Republic of Iran, in response to the recent Iraqi threat of an imminent bombing of seven towns in Iran, declared that it will bomb Iraq's industrial establishments. Following this warning, the Iraqi regime declared that it has added four more towns to its earlier targets. This shameless boldness by the criminal Iraqi leaders forced the Islamic Republic of Iran to warn the inhabitants of Basra, Khanaqin, and Mandali to evacuate these towns for their own safety. From no on, on the basis of its Islamic belief, Iran will retaliate.

Needless to say, under such circumstances, the responsibility and consequences of such a dangerous game — which would entail a heavy price for the Muslim, oppressed, and repressed people of Iraq — must be borne directly by the aggressive Iraqi rulers. Naturally, in this process, international bodies that, perhaps, may be able to prevent such tragedies in time by the rulers of the Baghdad regime, cannot exonerate themselves in the future if they procrastinate.

In conclusion, I request the distribution of this document among member countries as an official document of that organization.

Leaders Address Tehran Diplomatic Corps

Ayatollah Khomeyni

LD071447 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Feb 84

[18-minute speech by Imam Khomeyni at reception for diplomatic corps on 7 February in Tehran — recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I thank you, gentlemen, for coming here. I wish prosperity and good health to all Muslims and the oppressed of the world.

Our nation's only crime at present is that it wants to be free and humane, to determine its own fate. Today, every country but a few has risen against this nation which has risen and wants to be free and to implement the precepts of Islam. You have no idea how much propaganda there is. You are in Iran and hear foreign propaganda. There is so much foreign propaganda that if any of you has a conscience, you should be upset. The big powers want to erase Iran from the face of the earth, to overthrow the Islamic Republic. They did not know that they would fail against a nation that has staged a revolution, in every sense of the word, and has sacrificed its blood. The big powers should alter their viewpoint. They should know that the world has changed; it is not as it was in the past. It is not as it was when Britain, Europe, America or the Soviet Union ruled the world. The world no longer accepts this. They should reconsider. The world will not accept two powers destroying the world. It will not accept a minority swallowing all other countries. They should reconsider.

If any of you gentlemen were here at the outset of the war, you would have seen that it was Iraq who attacked Iran from air, sea, and land. It was Iraq who occupied a large part of Khuzestan. Iraq committed this criminal act because it was incited by America. Then, Iranian youths rose and threw them out of their country — with the strength of their faith — except for a small area which is still in their hands. Now the big powers have come together in an attempt to preserve this beast who has committed so many crimes against the people and ulema of his and our country. They say: Make peace. We have never had any quarrel with anyone. But we cannot make peace with Saddam. He is a criminal, none of those undertakings has any credence.

Do you think that if we were to make peace with Saddam, he would carry it through? He just wants to re-equip so he can attack again. He is the same person who, from the start, attacked Arab, Kurd, and Persian inhabited towns with missiles— missiles from the Soviet Union and America. Even more unfortunate is that governments in the region help him. We have repeatedly told the governments in the region to join us to rid ourselves of the claws of the superpowers. The oppressed no longer accept being oppressed by the superpowers. Today, the American nation does not accept what their President is doing. The American people have had enough of him. The world is now attracted to Islam.

Islamic governments should think of their future. You, gentlemen, who are here on behalf of Islamic governments: Tell your countries to think of something for themselves. Saddam is on the way out. Even if we leave Saddam alone, his own nation will throw him out. He is on the way out. You should think of what you will do after he is gone.

We want peace with all the world. We want to live among the people of the world; but they do not let us. If Saddam had not attacked us, we would have left Iraq alone. Iraq is our brother country and its people are our brothers. We have nothing against the Iraqi nation. It is Saddam who is trying to frighten us. You have seen, during the past 2 days, how much he bullies us, saying what he would do to our towns. He was supposed to attack them yesterday; he did not. He was supposed to attack them this evening; he did not. God alone knows when he will. Of course, he will pay.

But Islamic countries should come to their senses, they must not think that it would be in their interests to go with Saddam against us. They should preserve Islam. We want Islam. You should preserve Islam so that we can be rid of parasites. I ask you, gentelmen, to inform your governments that Iran is not as they think. There is no suppression in Iran. We are not living in palaces while putting others under pressure. Iran is as you see. The prime minister, president, foreign minister, and the Majlis speaker are all ordinary people and are friends with the people. You should get to know the people; governments should get to know the people. They should not put pressure on the people. The world no longer accepts this. One day, there will be an explosion and you will all perish; even the innocent will perish. Peace be upon you.

Foreign Minister

LD072327 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 7 Feb 84

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that in a speech to a gathering of heads of diplomatic missions in Iran 'Ali Akbar Velayati explained the latest developments and issues concerning the imposed war, the crimes committed by the aggressive Iraqi Ba'thist regime, and Iran's reaction to Saddam's recent threats.

Analyzing the start of the war by the aggressive Ba'thist regime and Iran's Islamic defense, he said: After suffering numerous defeats by our forces, the aggressive government carried out certain measures that are contrary to many international laws, many of which have been confirmed by the International Red Cross, such as the destruction of residential towns and villages, the use of chemical weapons, threatening freedom of navigation, sinking foreign commercial ships, and bombing wells in the Persian Gulf.

He added: You saw recently that Iraq has started a countdown to bomb some Iranian cities; even the effect of the bombs used by them in these bombings was announced by the Iraqi mass media. In other words, this regime has carried out a series of war crimes without concealing the fact and has announced this in its media.

Referring to the fact that Iraq has taken advantage of our situation on the fronts and of our refraining from bombing residential areas in Iraq, Velayati addressed the foreign ambassadors and charge d'affaires residing in Iran: We think that 40 months of sacrificing thousands of our innoncent civilians is enough and that this much tolerance of pain and suffering by our citizens is enough for an ultimatum. Therefore, as recently expressed by the prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, we have confined ourselves to threatening to bomb Iraq's economic areas. But the Iraqi regime did not pay any attention and added four more cities to the list of cities under threat of bombing. Finally, our officials could take no more and last night the Islamic Republic of Iran's new decision was announced by the president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council.

Concluding his speech, the foreign minister asked the foreign ambassadors and charges d'affaires residing in Iran to tell those countries' subjects who reside in Iraqi cities to leave the three cities declared by the Islamic Republic of Iran so that, Heaven forbid, their lives will not be endangered.

Jerusalem Headquarters Puts Forces on Alert

LD071735 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Feb 84

[Communique No 4 Central Jerusalem Headquarters of Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. During this holy and auspicious 10 Days of Dawn period and on the fifth anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, the Central Jerusalem Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps puts all basij [mobilization unit] and Labbayk Ya Khomeyni forces on alert and informs personnel of the brigades and divisions involved in the Jerusalem Liberation Maneuvers that they should report to the Guards Corps bases and to predetermined centers all over Iran from 1400 on Thursday, 9 February. After being armed and equipped, they can be dispatched to the sites of the Jerusalem Liberation Maneuvers, in over 60 areas of the country, in accordance with the prearranged plan.

[Signed] Central Jerusalem Headquarters of Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

Iraqi Group Asks To Join Jerusalem Maneuvers

LD071324 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Feb 84

[Text] Following the announcement on staging the Jerusalem Liberation Maneuvers by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq issued a statement addressed to the Central Jerusalem Headquarters.

The statement reads: When the evil forces of the East and the West are determined to wage war and oppose the Koran and the victorious Islamic Revolution of Iran; at a time when the Ba'thist Saddam, this criminal lackey of international imperialism is piercing the heart of the oppressed nation of Iraq with its poisonous fangs; and when, terrified of direct confrontation with the combatants of Islam he has threatened to bomb towns and residential areas of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the children of the hezbollahi nation are preparing themselves to take part in the Jerusalem Liberation Manuever. The manuevers have brought fear to the hearts of all enemies of Islam and have kindled hope and happiness in the hearts of believers. While expressing our gratitude for the hard efforts of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in helping us mobilize and organize the Iraqi Muslim mujahidin, we praise this selfless force and asks its headquarters to take the necessary steps to allow participation in these maneuvers by the mobilization force of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq.

In the hope that we may go on a pilgrimage to Karbala' and attend prayers led by Imam Khomeyni, may our spirits be sacrificied for him, in the holy shrine of the Lord of martyrs — peace be upon him.

Majlis Speaker Receives Forces Leaving for Front

LD071832 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Feb 84

[Text] Personnel of the Martyr Motahhari Brigade of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, who are leaving for the battlefronts of good against evil, met with Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning. During the meeting, the Majlis speaker said: The good fortune you have in these sensitive moments, you beloved soldiers of the imam of the era, in going to the fronts in defense of Islam and the revolution, is indicative of God Amighty's special love for you.

We hope that this phase of the war will be the last and that you will prevent the enemies of Islam and the revolution from hatching further plots. It appears that global arrogance is attempting to exploit the tremendous and increasing weakness of Iraq's 'Aflaqite regime in order to carry out its sinister designs in the region, thanks to the extreme weakness of these people. You heroic, selfless combatants are already in a position whereby no matter which direction you begin your lightning attack against the heart of the enemy, you will deal such a blow to the enemy that the 'Aflaqite regime will no longer be able to rule the country. Wherever you take a giant stride and repeat a glorious attack of the past, there and then the 'Aflaqite regime will reach its end and will be unable to continue.

Referring to the sincerity and purity of Islam s combatants and the selflessness of the mothers and fathers of the combatants, Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed the hope that the soldiers of the imam of the era, in the shadow of Islam and the Koran and with the prayers of the imam of the nation and all the martyrs' relatives, will return safely to the homeland after achieving conquest and victory.

Ground Forces Commander Discusses War Efforts

LD061823 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Feb 84

[Text] Colonel Sayyad-Shirazi, commander of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in a press, radio, and TV conference this afternoon, answered questions from domestic and foreign reporters.

First, expressing congratulations on the 10 Days of Dawn, the anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution, and wishing success to the combatants of Islam, he referred to the cooperation between the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said: The war we are waging now is a war for God. God will uphold the forces of Islam when they are united. We are united. Our combatants know what they are fighting for. Therefore, these combatants are being organized in joint headquarters and go to war against the enemies of Islam under one command.

Describing the role of the Ground Forces in the Jerusalem Liberation Maneuvers, he said: That maneuver is to prepare the popular forces in the 20-million-strong army, which has the capability to withstand any threat from the enemies. The army is an organized and experienced arm of the 20-million-strong army. The Ground Forces will give assistance in military matters and organization to prepare the forces. We should be united and work together.

He also answered questions from our correspondent:

[Begin recording; correspondent] Col Sayyad-Shirazi, the Ba'thist-Zionist regime of Iraq announced recently that it would attack a number of Iranian cities with missiles and bombs. If those threats are carried out, what actions could we take?

[Sayyad-Shirazi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Iraq's threat is a sign of its regime's anxiety. It is afraid that we will, with God's help, deal it the final blows. But a nation that has been grappling with its enemies for 5 years is not (?scared) of such threats. The combatants of Islam have always been ready for threats, not just now, when they are faced with these threats. These threats are nothing new. If they could do anything, they would have done it by now, and would continue to do it. I take this opportunity to declare to our Muslim nation and the combatants — with my military manner of speech — that we are prepared for any struggle or battle which will lead to the realization of our rights, God willing. There is no need for concern.

[Correspondent] What is the present military strength of the combatants of Islam?

[Sayyad-Shirazi] We have not interrupted our fighting. We are continuing our struggle, because we should reply to the injustice and crime that has been committed against us with the decisiveness worthy of the Islamic Revolution. Therefore, following the velayati policy of the Islamic regime, we are constantly on the scene and prepared. The answer will have to wait until later, when it is done by action.

[Correspondent] Considering the 10 Days of Dawn and the victory of the Islamic Revolution, what message do you have for the combatants and the rest of the nation?

[Sayyad-Shirazi] I congratulate the Muslim nation on the fifth anniversary of the 10 Days of Dawn and the vicotry of the Islamic Revolution. It is the best time for all of us to unite, in this trench, so that, God willing, we can fight against threats by the enemies of Islam, who are trying to worry us, and can deal with them properly.

[Correspondent] Thank you. [end recording]

Ready for 'Decisive Response'
LD072051 Tehran IRNA in English 1919 GMT 7 Feb 84

[Text] Tehran, Feb, 7 IRNA — Commander of ground forces Col Sayyad-Shirazi said here Monday that ground forces units were ready to give a decisive response to Iraqi threats.

Col Sayyad-Shirazi, speaking at a press conference further noted that Islamic combatants of Iran, through over [word indistinct] war operations ranging from [words indistinct] to the ongoing Val Fajr, liberated some 10,700 sq kms occupied Iranian land.

He hoped that a small part of the Islamic republic's territory still under occupation of Iraqi forces, would be soon liberated.

The ground forces commander said that the Islamic Republic of Iran had stood on its own feet for the past five years and was fighting with its own weapons.

Stressing that the most powerful weapon Iran possessed was reliance on the faith of it resistant people, Col Sayyad-Shirazi noted that Iran's military industries had grown, keeping pace with other sectors of industry, adding that committed young people were meeting major parts of the country's weaponry needs.

He reiterated that the Islamic combatants, by repairing equipment seized from the Iraqi Army, as well as that captured intact constituted a considerable supply of required weaponry for the warfronts.

Questioned whether resumption of diplomatic ties between Baghdad and Washington would have any effect on the Iraqi imposed war, Col Sayyad-Shirazi stressed that disclosure of such relations would have no result but to further disgrace ring leaders of Baghdad and Washington. He added that the U.S. aid to Iraq had been secretly going on before official announcement, but, he said Saddam had failed to make any progress by utilising such assistance.

He hailed efforts of the forces of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (Sairi) for their support of the war fronts and coordination with the Islamic combatants of Iran.

He further emphasised that defence operations of the Islamic forces and an all-out reply to the Iraqi aggressors would continue, adding that no exact time could be predicted for such operations.

The ground forces commander said that there were about 50,000 Iraqi POWs stationed in Iranian camps, adding that the corresponding figure for the Iranian POWs in Iraq was below 5,000.

On the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, Col Sayyad-Shirazi said that the waterway would be closed whenever threats of the enemies of the Islamic revolution were materialised against Iranian interests.

As long as the Islamic Republic was not forced, the Strait of Hormuz would not be blocked, the commander said.

He assured Persian Gulf states that the Islamic Republic's threats were only targeted at those who embarked on threatening movements against Iran.

Chief of Staff Speaks of Final Victory
GF081010 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Text] Brigadier General Zahirnezhad, chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has said that final victory in the war that has been imposed on the Islamic Revolution by the ruling regime in Iraq will be for the Islamic Republic of Iran. In a speech delivered before members of the Armed Forces Joint Staff during a ceremony held yesterday on the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, he said that Islam's purpose is to fight war-thirsty regimes.

He added that by threatening to attack residential areas in Islamic Iran, Saddam has aroused the anger of 40 million Muslims who comprise the children of the Iranian people. He stressed that international imperialism and its agents should know that their advanced weapons cannot shake the firm determination of the Iranian Muslim people to eradicate their hegemony upon the oppressed and the deprived of the world.

Speaker Addresses Majlis on War Responses
LD071217 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Feb 84

[Text] The Islamic Consultative Assembly met in open session today, chaired by Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Referring to yesterday's important messages of the president and the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, the Majlis speaker said:

[Begin recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The world has heard the message of the president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran and before that the warning issued by the prime

minister, His Excellency Mir-Hoseyn Musavi. We did not want events to come to this point or that the war continue for so long. Our various pieces of advice, our warnings, and all that we said were not heeded by the 'Aflaqite Saddamists. It also has become clear that the world understands no language except the language of force and threats— which is their language.

We have repeatedly announced to the world that the guns of the Armed Forces and the revolution guards of the Islamic Republic of Iran are capable of hitting scores of large or small Iraqi cities, but that they are not deployed against them. We have repeatedly invited the world to see the results of the crimes of the 'Aflaqites in civilian centers. The United Nations sent delegations which saw, prepared reports, and then conveyed their findings to the world; nobody paid any attention.

A few days ago, when the 'Aflaqites of Baghdad impudently announced that they will destroy 11 of our cities with missiles and bombs, the world mass media reported these threats in an encouraging tone in order to frighten our people. They are still engaging in these maneuvers. As a matter of principle and on the basis of Islamic principle, we have never considered engaging in reciprocal action, believing it would not be not necessary. However, following all these warnings, it has now become clear to us that we have no other option.

We feel that Saddam, in his last days of life, is trying to take revenge on both the Iranian and the Iraqi nations. With all the noise that he has made he has prepared the way for his actions. However, on the basis of what we know about Iraqis, the majority of Iraqis are prepared to endure hardships in the same way the Iranian people got rid of the shah by enduring hardships so that they also may rid themselves of Saddam. At the moment, the Iranian and Iraqi nations share the same fate. If the people of Abadan, Khorramshahr, Ahvaz, Dezful, and other cities are deprived of security, the people of Basra, Khaniqayn, Madali, and other Iraqi towns wish to have a similar fate. When security is established, we all will enjoy security.

The warning made by our president is only the beginning. Retaliation will not end with the three Iraqi towns. If the Iraqis engage in adventurism, they will see that there will be no secure town anywhere in Iraq— except Karbala', Najaf, and Kazimayn, which to us enjoy special sanctity, as does the holy city of Samarrah. God willing, we will have no need of them [as heard] and hope that our serious warning will awaken the 'Aflaqites, will make them desist from adventurism, and will get them to submit to the realities of the war. Our fighters who now know what kind of enemy they face, and now that the issue has been explained more clearly, will, in the near future, determine the fate of the war.

By sending its deputies, the Islamic Consultative Assembly foresaw this situation and pointed out that this matter should end as soon as possible so that Iraq's hands may be cut short. [sentence as heard] On behalf of the Majlis deputies, I support the new decision which — God willing — will end the crimes and adventurism of the Ba'thist Iraqi regime. [end recording]

Majlis Deputies Support Stand Against Iraq

LD071206 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Feb 84

[Text] In a letter to Mr Khamene'i, president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, 165 Majlis deputies have expressed their full support for his stance.

The message says: Fight against the infidels until God's religion is established on earth. Those who in any way aggress against the holy frontiers of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be punished by our brave combatants. We Majlis deputies endorse your Islamic stance to pound Iraqi border towns in response to their repeated acts of aggression. We ask Muslim and revolutionary youths all over Iran to rush to the battle fronts as soon as possible to wipe out the oppressors of Iraq.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,628

LD071739 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Feb 84

[Communique No 1,628 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] The combatants of Islam yesterday defended their positions and guarded zones on all fronts of the imposed war. By opening fire on enemy positions, they inflicted losses and casualties on the Saddamists.

As a result of the fire of our artillery units in the northwestern operational zone, a base belonging to the aggressors was destroyed and 10 of their troops were killed. In the same region, two trucks carrying Iraqi servicemen were set on fire and destroyed. Exchanges of fire continued in the western operational zone; our forces destroyed several enemy vehicles and a number of foxholes and trenches. On a front in the Mehran region, an enemy patrol group came under fire from our combatants and fled after suffering losses.

In the southern operational zone, exchanges of fire continued; they were more intense in the Shalamcheh and Kushk areas. Our combative units based on the banks of the Arvand Rud opened fire on enemy positions west of the river and set fire to eight enemy trenches and foxholes, two observation posts, and a fuel tank, and killed or wounded a number of Iraqi servicemen.

Yesterday, as a result of the enemy's heavy weapons fire on the city of Abadan, six houses and buildings, one school, and one hospital were damaged.

Reza'i Reportedly Arrested on Khamene'i Orders

GF080710 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 7 Feb 84

[Text] Mohsen Reza'i, commander of the Iranian Guards Corps, has been arrested.

The Free Voice of Iran correspondent reports from Tehran that a few days ago, Mohsen Reza'i was arrested on the orders of President 'Ali Khamene'i, with the approval of the Supreme Judicial Council. He is now in prison. It has not yet been learned what he is accused of but unconfirmed reports state that during the recent confessions by the leaders of the Tudeh Party, he was accused of complicity.

According to our correspondent, it is possible that following differences with Mohsen Rafiqdust, Guards Corps minister who is a friend of Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Mohsen Reza'i was removed from office and imprisoned. The Islamic Republic regime has not reported on the fate of Mohsen Reza'i. During the past month, Mohsen Reza'i has not been seen at the fronts or at any official ceremonies.

IRNA Reports Oveysi Assassinated in Paris

LD081053 Tehran IRNA in English 0920 GMT 8 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Tehran, Feb. 7, IRNA — In a revolutionary execution, the man behind the September 8, 1978 massacre (Black Friday) in Tehran was assassinated in Paris today.

General Gholam 'Ali Oveysi was riddled with bullets fired by a group of four men in front of the building which was his place of hiding for the past five years. His brother was also killed in the shooting.

Oveysi, who was called "the butcher of Tehran" for his brutal role as Tehran's military governor during the Islamic revolution, lived in Paris under disguise and was heavily protected by French security men.

An hour after the assassination, Oveysi's [words indistinct] the street and police prevented people from getting near. The Paris police said it had no clues on the whereabouts of the gunmen, who made their escape from the scene.

'Islamic Thought' Conference Opens 4 February

President's Message Read

LD042242 Tehran IRNA in English 1907 GMT 4 Feb 84

[Text] Tehran, Feb 4, IRNA — The three-day conference on "Islamic thought" opened at Tehran's Hotel Esteqlal today with the inauguration message of President 'Ali Khamene'i and participation of more than 600 personalities including foreign guests attending the "ten day dawn" ceremonies.

The conference, second since the victory of Islamic Revolution of Iran, is part of the ceremonies marking the fifth anniversary of the Islamic revolution of Iran and its main theme is the Holy Koran.

The president's inauguration message which was read by minister of Islamic guidance Mohammad Khatami, said that colonisers in a bid to isolate Islam have been resorting to various means to keep the Muslims away from the Koran.

In another part of the message it was said that ever since the rulers of the Islamic countries became alienated from the Islamic values and found Koran and its teachings as obstacles on the way of their policies, efforts were launched to remove teachings of God from the center of the society. Following this, religion was isolated from social life, it added. This was how Islam was withdrawn from the public life and was confined to mosques and homes. Such an alienation caused immense damages.

Furthermore on attempts of colonisers and imperialists to isolate Koran, the message added that the reason why the imperialists and colonisers could not tolerate Koran was that it called on all believers to unite against their enmies. This was because, it added, these dominators realised that effect of the Koran in the life of people even to a small extent would create obstacles for implementation of their vicious objectives and would reist their influence. Therefore, they planned for complete removal of Koran.

However, it added, this plan would not and will not be implemented because God Almighty has assured Muslims of preservation of the Holy Koran. Still, the efforts for its removal could not be underestimated, it added.

The president in another part of his message urged that those powers which were unable to tolerate Koran should not be accepted by the Muslims. The people of Iran who had been deprived of Koran and suffered from plots hatched by the enemies against Koran, have now experienced the value of returning to Islam and Koran. The Islamic revolution and establishment of the Islamic republic in Iran was one of the great products of this return, it added.

The president urged the guests to concentrate their efforts and rally around the Holy Koran and at the same time urge their people to return to Koran and Islam.

Then the head of the organisation for Islamic propagation, Ayatollah Jannati, addressed the conference.

Ayatollah Jannati who is also a member of the Council of Guardians referring to the recent threat of the Iraqi regime to bombard several Iranian cities, said that time and again the Iraqi regime has made the civilian areas of Iran the targets of its air and missile attacks which has resulted in martydom of a large number of people. However, he stressed, the Islamic republic of Iran would not attack civilian areas of Iraq, but as Imam Khomeyni has said the Islamic combatants would deal shattering blows on the Iraqi forces at warfronts. He emphasised the people of Iran were not affected by such threats of the Iraqi regime and under no condition would give in to injustice.

The next speaker of the conference was Biazar Shirazi, who talked about Koran and said that unfortunately some of the interpreters and orientalists have considered Koran as verses which have been put together randomly. However a thorough study of Koran shows that although various verses were revealed to Prophet Mohammad (s.a.w.) in various times and in a period of over twenty years, the prophet (s.a.w.) himself decided the place of each one of them and his apostles carried it out accord

ingly and taught it in the manner directed by Prophet Mohammad (s.a.w.)

Resolution Cited

LD071124 Tehran IRNA in English 0927 GMT 7 Feb 84

[Text] Tehran, Feb 6 IRNA — Over 300 participants from more than 70 countries attended the second conference of the Islamic thought. Its main theme was "the Holy Qoran," and was held on the occasion of the ten-day-dawn ceremonies.

The 3-day conference was also attended by hundreds of ulema, professors from universities and theological schools, scholars, researchers of Islamic revolution and Iranian and foreign students.

The conference, which centered around scientific, social and political aspects of the Holy Qoran, issued a resolution at its conclusion.

The resolution called on all the Muslims that through adhering to the edicts of the Holy Qoran they should refrain from disputes in order to implement the true Islamic ideals and to form a united front to combat the East and the West till their annihilation.

As the Muslim people of Palestine, Afghanistan, Lebanon and other Islamic countries are suffering under yoke of foreign powers, it is a duty of all the Muslims who, drawing inspiration from the Holy Qoran should join in this holy war and mobilise the resources against the aggressors to wipe them out from the Islamic lands, said the resolution.

In another part, the resolution referring to the military aggression of the Ba'thist regime of Iraq on Islamic Iran, which was supported and instigated by the East and West imperialists, especially the U.S. and France, to crush the Islamic Revolution, called on all the Muslims to mobilise their forces to crush the aggressors on the Islamic land.

Last Session Held

LD072135 Tehran IRNA in English 1914 GMT 7 Feb 84

[Text] Tehran, Feb 7 IRNA — Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani refuted rumours of government pressure against religious minorities in the Islamic Republic, in his address to participants at the last session of the Islamic thought conference. He also pointed out ways of preventing the joining of reactionary Islamic countries rulers to the Camp David so-called peace solution for the Mideast.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani in his speech further said that holy Koran is the only factor capable of uniting Muslim societies against East and West.

He noted that nothing was comparable to the Koran and its effect on the Islamic revolution, adding that as a result of Koranic teachings Islamic pioneers abandoned their material possessions for its establishment. He said too that Koran is the great hope of Muslim strugglers.

Shaykh Hassan Ahmed Badri from Kenya said that he would tell of the achievements of the Islamic revolution in Iran whereever he went.

One of the Afghan combatants in his address to the audience said that the Koran considered Islam the ultimate ruling system, and that peace would only prevail when Islam is sovereign. He then referred to the presence of more than 100,000 Soviet occupier troops in Afghanistan and the martyrdom of over one million Afghan Muslims and 4.5 million refugees.

He added that Afghans would continue their struggle until the banner of Islam was hoisted there, despite various plots of East and West.

The three-day conference on "Islamic thought" opened at Tehran's hotel [word indistinct] Saturday with the inauguration message of President 'Ali Khamene'i and participation of more than 600 personalities including foreign guests attending the "ten-day dawn" ceremonies.

Foreign Guests Tour Former U.S. Embassy

LD072053 Tehran IRNA in English 1909 GMT 7 Feb 84

[Text] Tehran, Feb 7 IRNA — Foreign guests, participants in the ten days dawn ceremonies to mark the 5th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, Monday inspected the former U.S. embassy (den of spies) and the Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Garrison. They also met with dozens of members of families of martyrs.

Participants from Morocco, Somali, Senegal, Canada and the U.S. also perused various documents in connection with Iran and the Middle East seized from the den of spies as well as espionage equipment there. One of the Lebanese guests in his speech said that the Islamic Revolution of Iran, led by Imam Khomeyni, played a prominent role in awakening the nation, as it disclosed the crimes and plots of Muslims' enemies and their intrusion in the region.

The guests also inspected the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) where dean of the school Hojjat ol-Eslam (Din Parvar) spoke to the guests on the need for the ideological, cultural and military training of such cadres as vanguards of 20-million strong army. Meanwhile, the guests later on Monday attended the (Qoba) Mosque, once deemed as one of the most important center [word indistinct] for the mobilisation of the masses in the time of the Martyr Hojjat ol-Eslam Mofateh. They afterwards participated in a congregational prayer here led by Professor (Ssam Lida), at the conclusion of which a Senegalese guest spoke on the Islamic Revolution and the unity of Iranian masses.

Reportage on Italian Economic Delegation's Visit

GF311719 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 31 Jan 84

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 31, IRNA — The head of the visiting Italian economic delegation, Romano Pordi, in a meeting here today with the Iranian Minister of Roads and Transportation Hadinezhad-Hoseynian, discussed cooperation between the two

countries and progress in projects being constructed by Italian companies.

The 19-man Italian delegation comprising representatives of several Italian companies which have contracts in Iran including IRI [Institute for Industrial Reconstruction), Ital Stat, Condotte and Ital Impianti, arrived here Sunday and has so far visited the Mobarakeh steel complex in Esfahan.

After inspecting various parts of the Mobarakeh steel project yesterday, Pordi in an interview with IRNA in Esfahan, described progress of the work on the project as satisfactory.

He further added that IRI was prepared to provide the necessary facilities for completion of the project so that it would start operation on the scheduled time. Upon completion, he said, the plant would produce 2.4 million tons of steel metal sheets annually.

Furthermore, Pordi told IRNA, once the project is completed, the Iranian experts themselves would be able to construct similar projects elsewhere in the country without foreign assistance.

He added that IRI was willing to cooperate with the Islamic Republic in building other industries and hoped that through talks with the Iranian officials the company would be able to expand its cooperation with Iran.

Talks With Deputy Minister

GF011718 Tehran IRNA in English 1657 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 1, IRNA — Iran-Italy expansion of economic and commercial relations were discussed in a meeting Tuesday between head of the visiting Italian economic trade delegation, Romano Pordi and Iran's deputy heavy industry minister, Mr. Karbasian.

In the meeting the Iranian minister conversed on the Islamic Republic's goal of achieving self-sufficiency and its efforts to increase domestic production.

The head of the Italian delegation also expressed his country's readiness to cooperate with Iran in the fields of shipping, machine manufacturing, steel industry, and telecommunication.

The 19-man Italian delegation, comprising representatives of several Italian companies arrived here Sunday.

DPRK Vice Premier Arrives, Meets With Officials

LD022202 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Kong Chin-tae, vice premier of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea [DPRK], arrived in Tehran this afternoon to meet and hold talks with officials of our country. He was welcomed by the deputy prime minister and several officials of our country's Foreign Ministry.

On arrival, the DPRK vice premier was interviewed by our correspondent at Mehrabad Airport. Expressing delight at visiting Iran, he said: The nations of Korea and Iran are on a common front, and the friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries are expanding daily. The two nations are in one trench fighting U.S. imperialism. Kong Chin-tae added: We are happy to be able to observe closely the victories and remarkable success of the heroic nation of Iran, which have been achieved under the wise leadership of His Great Eminence Imam Khomeyni, leader of the Islamic Revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He went on: The purpose of our delegation's trip to Iran is to study possibilities of commercial, economic, and technical cooperation and the expansion of such cooperation, because both countries are members of the Nonaligned Movement. We believe it necessary to strive for the expansion of relations and cooperation between the two countries to offer a service in the expansion of relations and cooperation among the developing countries. I am quite certain that this visit will play a valuable role in expanding relations between the two countries in the interests of the two nations.

Commerce Minister

LD042043 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Feb 84

[Excerpt] The DPRK vice premier who is currently paying a visit to our country at the head of a trade and economic delegation this afternoon met and conferred with Commerce Minister Ja'fari. In the course of the meeting, hope was expressed for expansion of commercial ties and their elevation to the existing good diplomatic relations between them.

Alluding to the fact that both Iran and Korea are engaged in fighting imperialism to defend their independence and that both are members of the Nonaligned Movement, Commerce Minister Ja'fari called for holding the necessary talks to settle their difficulties and pave suitable grounds for expansion of economic and commercial cooperation.

The DPRK trade and economic delegation will be staying in Iran for a week, during which it will study the possibilities of exchange of goods and the expansion of bilateral commercial ties.

Deputy Prime Minister

LD051253 Tehran IRNA in English 0931 GMT 5 Feb 84

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 5 IRNA — The visiting vice premier of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Kong Chin-tae, Saturday met and conferred with Deputy Prime Minister in Charge of Development Affairs Mohammad Hendi.

During the meeting Hendi outlined various plots of the world oppressors against the Islamic revolution and oppressed nations of the world adding that Iranians thus far have thwarted and will continue to do so all such plots.

In reply Kong Chin-tae expressing gratitude for being in Iran on the eve of the fifth anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran, said that Korean people were well aware of justified struggles of Iranian nation against domestic and foreign plots. He said that Korean nation was watching the Iranian Muslim struggle for independence and hoped they would achieve final victory in near future. He also referred to the U.S. plots to keep the Korean Peninsula and people divided. The DPRK vice premier also called for the expansion of economic cooperation between Iran and his country.

The Iranian deputy prime minister also said in his talks that the victory of the Islamic revolution broke shackles and demolished the fear of imperialism which at one time determined the fate of the Iranian nation.

The meeting concluded with both sides emphasising further expansion of economic, industrial cooperation between the countries.

Industry Minister

LD060500 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Feb 84

[Text] The deputy premier of the DPRK this morning met with Industry Minister Mostafa Hashemi. While discussing the question of expansion of economic and industrial relations between the two countries, the minister of industry said: The proposed plans by Korea are being considered. Compared to plans proposed by other countries, the Korean plans will be given priority, all things being equal. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Korean deputy premier, wishing success for the Islamic Republic of Iran, expressed the hope for an increase in the level of economic relations between the two countries.

Prime Minister Musavi

LD061924 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Feb 84

[Text] The Korean vice premier met with Prime Minister Musavi this morning. During this meeting, while describing relations between the two countries and problems in the expansion of mutual economic relations, the Korean vice premier said: We know that the heroic nation of Iran is struggling to create a progressive Iran and has achieved outstanding success in this, under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni. There are many common factors between us in this respect.

Mr Musavi then described the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the region. Referring to the threats made by the big powers and the United States, he said: The U.S. Marines are spending uncomfortable nights near the Straits of Hormuz. Analyzing the causes of the war, he said: The Iraqi regime has resorted to insane measures, showing that the regime has reached a deadlock politically, economically,and culturally and that its death is imminent.

Foreign Minister Velayati

LD071031 Tehran IRNA in English 0913 GMT 7 Feb 84

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 6, IRNA — Deputy premier of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Hong Chin-tae, met with Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi here today and discussed mutual relations.

During the meeting Musavi outlined the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic in the region and the main reasons behind the Iraqi imposed war. He said the irrational acts of the Iraqi regime were indications that it had reached a dead-end in all diplomatic, economic and cultural fields and that it was in the agonies of death.

Kong Chin-tae also met with Iran's Foreign Minister Velayati today. During the meeting the deputy premier stressed the continuation of the existing cordial relations between the two countries that are based on the principles of the non-aligned movement, independence and common struggle against U.S. imperialism.

The North Korean official announced that his government and nation considered the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran as their own and expressed their solidarity with the Islamic Republic in its just struggle.

In response Dr. Velayati announced Iran's readiness to expand relations and economic cooperation with the DPRK.

He said the struggles of the two nations are against U.S. imperialism and the two countries faced the same enemies in eastern and western Asia.

President Khamene'i

LD071901 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Feb 84

[Text] The DPRK vice premier, who is visiting Tehran, this morning met and had talks with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i. During the meeting, the DPRK vice premier, while extending congratulations to mark the fifth anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution, conveying a message from the DPRK president and once again proclaiming the solidarity of the Korean people with the revolutionary Iranian nation, said: Iran and Korea are in a joint front struggling against the world-devouring United States and in this struggle we will always be on the side of the revolutionary Iranian nation.

Khamene'i, in turn, expressing thanks for the friendly and sincere message from the DPRK president and referring to the acts of aggression perpetrated by U.S. imperialism in various regions of the world, said: We believe that the United States' hegemonistic and bullying reaction manifested as military presence in the Persian Gulf, Sea of Oman, Indian Ocean, the Mediterranean, East Asia and in a great many parts of the world, should be recognized and condemned by all the world's nations.

Continuing his speech and referring to the decisive resolve of the Iranian nation to defeat U.S. policies in the region and to secure final victory in the war, the president added: We are determined to conclude this war victoriously since we deem this victory as a decisive blow to U.S. policy in the region. In countering U.S. threats in this region, we feel absolutely powerful and this time too U.S. policy is condemned to defeat and our great Islamic Revolution which is leaning on divine assistance and intervention by every one of the people will undoubtedly triumph over the plots of the enemies.

In conclusion, while emphasizing activating the anti-U.S. front by all the world's independent countries, the president expressed the hope for increasingly expanding bilateral relations.

Radio Iran on Planned National Sit-in

GF071822 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 7 Feb 84

[Text] According to reports by nationalist elements, Tehran's terminals in various parts of the city have been crowded for the past 24 hours with passengers who are trying to get to their destinations before the start of the national sit-in.

Nationalist elements, who visited a number of bus companies this morning, reported that the majority of bus trips have been reserved for days up to and including Thursday. Currently, it looks certain that these companies will have no customers for Friday and Saturday.

In the south terminal, an old man who wanted to buy a ticket for Shahreza for Friday canceled his trip when people informed him that Radio Iran has banned travel on that day. He chose to go on Sunday instead.

The 14-Mordad Movement, in its last statement, has asked all the noble and patriotic employees of the Iranian National Airlines, the railway organization, and the various bus companies to help make the sit-in by the people of Iran on Friday and Saturday victorious and thus help their deprived nation.

Friday and Saturday are the days to boycott the Khomeyni regime. On these days all streets, alleys, and roads everywhere in the country should be devoid of traffic.

Tehran enjoyed another day full of hopes today even though it was cold and people still had to deal with all their many problems. There was no greeting unanswered in the shops, bazaars, and shopping centers today. People, maintaining their security, informed one another that the political sit-in for Friday and Saturday should be held as gloriously as possible. Reports from nationalist sources indicate that the headquarters for propaganda for the Ten Days of Dawn has reached a stalemate and is trying to gather anyone it can rent for the day to bring to Tehran. Nationalist elements say that irrespective of all these desperate efforts it would be impossible for an honorable Iranian with a conscience to participate in the contrived march ordered by Khomeyni and thus approve the misery of his own nation or the war and its resulting destruction.

Radio Iran Reports Statement by Guards in Exile

GF071848 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 7 Feb 84

[Text] The first statement by Khomeyni's guards who have left the country has been issued. We invite the attention of the guards to this very important statement:

We, the former guards of the Islamic Republic, who have been forced to leave our homeland, invite all our collegues, most of whom we know are sorry about having supported the mullahs of the black deeds, to return to the bosom of their nation. According to religious faith and national conscience, they should avoid sitting at the blood stained table which has been set by the godless Khomeyni. The time has come to restore our honor. Let this crumbling mansion dissolve by you getting out of this false circle and thus rid the Iranian nation from this terrifying nightmare.

Contrary to all the false propaganda of the Khomeyni regime,we have discovered that the Iranian nation is a magnanimous forgiver and will never forget your historical effort. The Iran of the future will not be one of hatred and revenge. The Iran of the future will belong to all those who played even the most minute roles in its construction.

Dear colleagues, do your duty in these destiny-making days and cooperate with the Iranian nation instead of opposing this struggling nation.

[Dated] Istanbul, Monday, 6 February 1984